

Tips for Great Floral Designers! - Notes by Lisa Whittlesey



1. Always **cut stems at an angle** to allow the flowers to take up more water. Cut flowers from the garden in the morning before they begin to lose water.
2. Use **floral preservatives** in your water.
 - a. Floral preservatives contain **sugar, biocide, and an acidifier**.
 - b. Use **commercial preservatives**.
 - c. Use warm, not hot water
3. Choose the **design style** based on the location, containers, and flowers you have available.
4. Use a variety of **textures** in each design to make it more appealing.
5. **Refrigerate** cut flowers and designs to lengthen the life of your flowers. This will minimize ethylene production and transpiration.
6. Do not store designs or flowers near fruit, vegetables, or evergreens. These produce **ethylene gas**, which will shorten the life of your flowers.
7. Practice good **sanitation**. Bacteria can block flower stems and keep the flower from taking up water. Always practice the following sanitation techniques:
 - a. **Wash** all flower buckets with bleach or bucket wash after each use.
 - b. **Remove** all foliage from the part of the stem that will be under water. This practice will prevent leaves from rotting and growing bacteria.
 - c. **Disinfect** the refrigerator floor and working areas regularly.
 - d. **Change the water** in flower buckets and arrangements on a regular basis to reduce bacteria. **Add floral preservatives** each time you change the water.
 - e. **Throw out** any dead or rotting plant materials.

Cut Flowers You Can Grow Yourself!

Zinnia

Iris

Dianthus

Sunflowers

Chrysanthemum

Larkspur

Rudbeckia

Roses

Snapdragons

Salvia

Oxeye or Shasta daisies

Gladiolus

Celosia or coxcomb

Purple cone flower

Trees and Shrubs that Make Good Greenery!

Pittosporum

Burford Holly

Cedar

Ferns (asparagus, queen, etc)

Wax Leaf Ligustrum

Dusty miller

Beautyberry

Lots of other tree branches – cypress, oak, elm, crepe myrtle (fall foliage and berry pods)

Eleagnus

Herbs – (Rosemary, basil, thyme)

Pine

Yaupon Holly

English or pothos ivy

Liriope

For More Information About Growing and Caring for These and Other Plants See the Aggie-Horticulture Web-Site!

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

For more about Floral Design courses and opportunities through the Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M University

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/benz-school/>